WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

A method for forming a working space at an anastomotic site in a 1 1. 2 body lumen having a wall with an outer surface and an inner surface, and an interior 3 lumen, said method comprising: introducing an inflatable barrier through an access penetration in the wall 4 into the interior lumen of the body lumen; 5 positioning a recessible surface of the inflatable barrier against an 6 anastomotic site on the inner surface of the body lumen wall, wherein the anastomotic 7 8 site is spaced-apart from the access penetration; and inflating the barrier such that the recessible surface isolates a working 9 10 space within the lumen. 2. A method as in claim 1, wherein the barrier is introduced in a 1 2 deflated condition through the access penetration and thereafter inflated to create the 3 working space. 3. A method as in claim 2, wherein the inflatable barrier has an 1 2 inflated geometry which defines the working space. 4. A method as in claim 3, wherein the working space defined by the 1 2 inflated geometry is concave or an annular groove. A method as in claim 1, further comprising engaging a rigid tool 5. 1 against the recessible surface of the inflated barrier to create the working space. 2 1 6. A method as in claim 1, wherein introducing comprises introducing a catheter having the barrier at a distal end thereof through a needle. 2 A method as in claim 1, further comprising cutting a hole through 7. 1 2 the wall to prepare the anastomotic site. 8. A method as in claim 7, wherein the hole is cut before the barrier is 1 2 inflated. 9. A method as in claim 7, wherein the hole is cut after the barrier is 1 2 inflated.

1 10. A method as in claim 7, further comprising attaching a graft vessel 2 to the anastomotic site. 1 11. A method as in claim 7, wherein cutting the hole comprises use of 2 a cutting die. 12. 1 A method as in claim 1, further comprising deflating the barrier 2 and withdrawing the deflated barrier through the access penetration. 1 13. A method as in claim 1, wherein introducing comprises advancing 2 the barrier with a shaft passing through the access penetration, wherein an end of the shaft 3 attached to the barrier is curved to facilitate locating the recessible surface of the barrier back against the inner wall of the body lumen. 4 14. A method as in claim 1, wherein positioning the recessible surface 1 2 of the inflatable barrier comprises pulling on a tether to hold the recessible surface of the barrier against the inner surface of the body lumen wall. 3 1 A method as in claim 14, further comprising advancing a cutting 15. 2 die over or adjacent to the tether, wherein the cutting die includes a hole or channel to align the die with the tether as the die is advanced. 3 1 16. A method as in claim 15, further comprising attaching an end of a 2 graft vessel to the anastomotic site, wherein the tether is disposed between the graft vessel 3 and the hole in the blood vessel wall. 1 17. A method as in claim 14, wherein the tether is at least partly elastic 2 so that it elastically elongates as tension is applied. 1 18. A method as in claim 1, further comprising protecting the 2 recessible surface of the inflatable barrier against accidental needle penetration during 3 suturing. 19. 1 A method as in claim 18, wherein protecting comprises locating a 2 needle penetration guard over at least a portion of the concave surface of the inflatable 3 barrier.

20. A method as in claim 19, wherein locating the needle guard		
deforms the inflatable barrier and creates or enlarges the working space.		
21. A method as in claim 1, wherein introducing and positioning		
comprise (a) advancing a curved needle into the body lumen through the access		
penetration and out of the body lumen through the anastomotic site, and (b) pulling on a		
tether attached to the inflatable barrier to draw the recessible surface of said barrier		
against the inner surface of the body lumen.		
22. A method as in claim 21, further comprising introducing a needle		
penetration guard through the anastomotic site over the recessible surface.		
23. A method as in claim 22, wherein the needle penetration guard has		
a shaft which extends through a catheter attached to the inflatable barrier, wherein both		
the shaft and catheter extend back through the penetration hole.		
24. A method as in claim 23, further comprising withdrawing the		
inflatable barrier and the needle penetration guard through the access penetration.		
25. A method as in claim 24, wherein the needle penetration guard is		
removed first by withdrawing through a catheter lumen.		
26. A method as in claim 25, wherein the needle penetration guard		
unravels as it is withdrawn through the catheter.		
27. Apparatus for isolating a working space in a blood vessel having a		
wall with an outer surface, an inner surface, and an interior lumen, said apparatus		
comprising:		
an inflatable barrier having a recessible surface which is adapted to		
conform to and seal against the inner surface of the blood vessel wall to define the		
working space at an anastomotic site; and		
means for introducing and deploying the inflatable barrier through a		
penetration in the blood vessel wall, wherein the penetration is spaced-apart from the		
anastomotic site.		

1	28.	Apparatus as in claim 27, wherein the introducing means comprises	
2	a catheter having a proximal end, a distal end, and an inflation lumen therethrough,		
3	wherein the inflatable barrier is attached at or near the distal end of the catheter.		
1	29.	Apparatus as in claim 28, wherein at least a distal portion of the	
2	catheter is curved and	I the barrier is oriented so that it can be pushed by the catheter	
3	against a location axially spaced-apart from the penetration through which the barrier and		
4	catheter were introduced.		
1	30.	An apparatus as in claim 29, wherein the curved distal portion	
2	induces a first radially divergent curve and a second radially convergent curve.		
1	31.	Apparatus as in claim 30, wherein the introducing means further	
2	comprises a tether extending distally from the barrier, wherein said tether is adapted to be		
3	passed through the anastomotic site wall to permit tensioning of the barrier by drawing		
4	outwardly on the tether.		
1	32.	Apparatus as in claim 30, further comprising a curved needle	
2	attached to a distal end of the tether, wherein the curve of the needle is "similar or		
3	congruent" with the first curve of the catheter.		
1	33.	Apparatus as in claim 32, wherein at least one of the needle and the	
2	catheter is at least partly malleable so that it can be shaped prior to use.		
1	34.	Apparatus as in claim 26, wherein the inflatable barrier comprises	
2	an elastomeric balloon.		
1	35.	Apparatus as in claim 35, wherein the balloon has a torroidal	
2	geometry.		
1	36.	Apparatus as in claim 34, wherein the recessible surface comprises	
2	an annular groove to define the working space.		
1	37.	Apparatus as in claim 34, wherein the recessible balloon surface	
2	comprises a flat or convex surface which can be engaged by a rigid tool to define the		
3	working space.		

1 38. Apparatus as in claim 35, further comprising a needle penetration 2 shield. 1 39. Apparatus as in claim 38, wherein the needle penetration shield 2 comprises a layer of a puncture-resistant material laminated to the balloon surface. 40. 1 Apparatus as in claim 38, wherein the needle penetration shield is a 2 separate tool that can be introduced through the anastomotic site. 1 41. Apparatus for isolating a working space in a body lumen having a 2 wall, an inner surface, and an interior lumen, said apparatus comprising: 3 an inflatable barrier structure having a recessible surface which is adapted 4 to conform to and seal against the inner surface of the body lumen wall to define the 5 working space; and a needle penetration guard engageable against the recessible surface of the 6 7 inflatable barrier when the barrier is inflated. 42. 1 Apparatus as in claim 41, wherein the inflatable barrier structure 2 comprises a catheter having a proximal end, a distal end, and an inflation lumen 3 therethrough; wherein the inflatable barrier is attached at or near the distal end of the 4 catheter. 1 43. Apparatus as in claim 42, wherein the catheter has at least an 2 inflation lumen and a shaft-receiving lumen extending therethrough. 1 44. Apparatus as in claim 43, wherein the needle penetration guard 2 comprises a shield surface and a shaft attached to the shield surface, wherein the shaft is 3 adapted to pass into and through the shaft-receiving lumen of the inflatable barrier 4 catheter when the shield is in place over the recessible surface. 1 45. Apparatus as in claim 44, wherein the needle penetration guard 2 further comprises a removable placement tool which detachably couples to the shield 3 surface on a side opposite to the shaft. 1 46. Apparatus as in claim 42, wherein the at least a distal portion of the 2 catheter is curved and the barrier is oriented so that it can be pushed by the catheter

- against a location axially spaced-apart from the penetration through which the barrier and
 shaft were introduced.
- 1 47. Apparatus as in claim 46, wherein the curved distal portion induces 2 a first radially divergent curve and a second radially convergent curve.
- 1 48. Apparatus as in claim 47, further comprising a tether extending 2 distally of the inflatable barrier to permit tensioning of the barrier by drawing outwardly 3 on the tether.
- 1 49. Apparatus as in claim 48, further comprising a curved needle 2 attached to the tether.
- 1 50. Apparatus as in claim 49, wherein the curve of the needle is 2 "similar or congruent" with the curve of the distal end of the catheter.
- 1 51. Apparatus as in claim 49, wherein the needle and the catheter are malleable so that the curves can be changed.
- 1 52. A method as in claim 15, further comprising attaching an end of a 2 graft vessel to the anastomotic site, wherein the tether is disposed through the hole in the 3 blood vessel and outside of a lumen of the graft vessel.
- 1 53. A method as in claim 24, wherein the needle penetration guard is 2 removed by withdrawing through the anastomotic site.
- 1 54. A method as in claim 44, wherein the needle penetration guard is 2 adapted to uncoil when withdrawn from the vessel.